

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~The invention relates to~~ Disclosed is a system for immobilizing two vertebrae, ~~the which~~ system ~~comprising~~ includes two screws, and elongated connecting member and two fastening systems. Each fastening system ~~comprises~~ includes a clamping member; and a fastening member (28) consisting of a single ring-shaped piece having a lateral wall (34) around an axial passage (36), ~~said~~. ~~The wall including~~ includes a first aperture (38) for the clamping member and a second aperture (40) comprising a first portion (46) and a second portion (48). The first portion (46) has a rim (50) forming a bearing surface for the screw head. The second portion (48) provides a free passage for the screw head. ~~Said~~ The axial passage can receive one end of the connecting member and the screw head, whereby (a) the screw head can be freely inserted into the axial passage of the fastening member and (b) the end of the connecting member and the screw head are immobilized by actuating the clamping member. --

Please delete lines 32-35 on page 16.